

# THE INSIDE STORY



## **Brownfield Redevelopment in Duquesne and McKeesport**

In October 2005, Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato announced the receipt of \$8.0 million in loans and grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to redevelop the City Center of Duquesne and the Industrial Center of McKeesport, two brownfield sites that largely sat idle following the collapse of the steel industry more than 20 years ago.

The funding allowed the county to continue cleaning up two major tracts of land in the Mon Valley and return them to viable economic use. The Allegheny County Department of Economic Development worked with the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County (RAAC) and the Regional Industrial Development Corporation (RIDC) to take advantage of HUD's Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program, which enables public entities to leverage Community Development Block Grants into additional funding. HUD awarded the County a \$2.0-million Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grant and a \$6.0-million Section 108 loan.

RIDC is the owner and developer of the properties. The first project consisted of the demolition of 15 blast furnaces on the Duquesne site using a combination of Section 108, BEDI and RACP funds. The blast furnaces, with smokestacks ranging from 85 to 105 feet, were laden with asbestos and presented a large obstacle to redevelopment of the southern end of the site.

Projects at the McKeesport site included site cleanup, demolition of an old office building, renovating several other buildings and relocating a pipe yard from the riverfront.

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